

R E M A R K S

- Claims 1 to 26 were pending
- Claim 15 was allowed
- Claims 6, 17, and 19 were objected to but are otherwise allowable
- Claim 27 has been added herein
- Claims 2, 5 to 14, and 20 to 26 have been canceled herein without prejudice
- Claims 1, 4, 16, and 19 have been amended herein
- Claims 1, 15, 16, and 27 will be the only pending independent claims upon entry of this amendment

I. Objections to claims 6, 17, and 19

In the Office Action, claims 6, 17 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that claims 6, 17 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Given the Examiner's remarks and solely in the interest in expediting prosecution, the features of claims 6 and 17 and any respective intervening claims have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 16 respectively. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims as new claim 27. No new matter has been added with the addition of claim 27.

It is believed that as amended the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully submitted that the objections be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of claims 4, 7 to 13, and 20 to 26 under Sec. 112

Claim 4 has been amended to resolve the antecedent basis issue raised by the Examiner. Claims 7 to 13, and 20 to 26 have been cancelled herein. Thus, Applicants assert that the Section 112 rejections have been overcome and respectfully request that they be withdrawn.

III. Prior Art Rejections of claims 1 to 5, 7 to 14, 16, 18, & 20 to 26

Claims 1, 4, 16, and 19 have been amended herein by incorporating the features identified by the Examiner as allowable and claims 2, 5 to 14, and 20 to 26 have been canceled herein without prejudice to pursue them in another application. Thus, Applicants assert that the rejection of claims 1 to 5, 7 to 14, 16, 18, and 20 to 26 are either overcome by amendment or cancelled and therefore moot.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that the cancelled and/or amended claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim cancellations and amendments have been made only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the original and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

The Applicants believe all the pending claims to be allowable and respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants believe no other fee is required at this time. If any other fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone Applicant's attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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